Wednesday, *the* *4th August 1943* / *19th Karkadagam 1118*

The Council met in the Council Hall Ernakulam, at half past eleven of the clock with the Hon'ble the President (A. F. W. DIXON Esq. C.I.E., I.C.S.) in the Chair.

Messrs. H. J. Walmesley, L. M. Pylee, Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait and Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

M. L. Cs.—MINISTER'S PARTY—APPOINTMENT OF—REQUEST FOR

84. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state whether the Hon'ble Minister has asked for appointments to certain M. L. Cs. who belong to his party?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* No.

CO-ORDINATION OF DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE MINISTER—SCHEME FOR

85. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Minister for Rural Development has prepared a scheme for the co-ordination of some of the departments under him;

(*b*) if so, what is the scheme;

(*c*) what progress has it made?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is a scheme to co-ordinate the activities of the departments of the Transferred half.

(*c*) The scheme is under consideration of Government.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I take it, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister has sent up his scheme.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* It is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* We want to know from the Hon'ble Ministr whether the scheme has been prepared by the Hon'ble Minister and sent up to Government.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* It has not been sent up. It is pending with the Minister.

CHORAKULAM—IMPROVEMENT OF

86. Mrs. K. Joshua *(Trichur-Women):* (*a*) Will Government be pleased to print and place on the table the Government Proceedings, D. Dis. 14813/17, dated 28th April 1942, Development Department, regarding improvements to Chorakulam in the Kurkancheri Panchayat area;

(*b*) has the work been undertaken in 1118;

(*c*) if not, why not?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* (*a*) Copy of the Government Proceedings, D. Dis. 14813/17, dated 28th April 1942 is Appended.*

(*b*) No.

(*c*) For want of funds.

Mrs. K. Joshua *(Trichur-Women):* Since it is a very important matter, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to start the work at least early in 1119?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I shall try to take it up if funds are available. I shall look into it.

M. L. Cs.—APPOINTMENT TO GOVERNMENT SERVICE

87. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government has noted that the recruitment of M.L.Cs. as Government Officers, honorary or otherwise has interfered with the freedom and fearlessness of the Members of the Council and its liveliness;

*See Appendix I

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(*b*) whether the Government will pass a rule that no M.L.Cs. should be given a Government job?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: (*a*) Government do not consider that the recruitment of M.L.Cs. as Government Officers, honorary or otherwise has interfered with the freedom and fearlessness of the members of the Council and its liveliness.

(*b*) Government do not think that a rule as suggested is necessary.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: May I ask the Hon'ble Government Secretary as to whether M.L.C's doing honorary work have been fined?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: I have no information.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Am I to take it that the Government have no information that M.L.C's who have been doing honorary work, have been fined?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Except to the extent that there is a question on this, I have no information.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Will Government take it from me that they have been fined and they have protested against it.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: They have not been fined so far as the Government departmental work is concerned. They might have been fined for some other reason. That is the reason why I said the Government have no information.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Have they been fined on account of dereliction or delinquency in connection with the work they were doing. I do not know whether it is Government work or otherwise.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*; If it is Government work it will come to the notice of the Government.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: May I ask you whether the War Publicity Officer has fined Messrs. K. S. Panickar, and K. M. Ibrahim Rs. 2 each.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The Hon'ble Member may be right. It might have been done by some non-official agency. I do not know.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: I ask the Government Secretary whether the War Publicity Officer has not done it?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: No, he has not done it.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Has Mr. C. K. Nayar been fined Rs. 5.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Same answer,

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: What is this same answer. Will you please repeat?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The War Publicity Officer has not fined.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Has anybody else done it?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: I do not know.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Suppose, M.L.C's did some wrong. Are they not to be fined?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Does not the subjection to fine and punishment necessarily interfere with the fearlessness of a man?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Fines and punishments depend upon wrong actions, if any, and Government are not concerned with such questions unless it be something connected with regular departmental work. Nothing like that has come to our notice.

Mr. President: The hon'ble members referred to are not Government servants, either honorary or otherwise.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: May I know, Si, how many M.L.C's have been recruited in Government service during the year 1118.

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Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: No member of the Council as such is recruited to Government service. As I said, candidates are selected, some times they happen to be sitting in the Legislative Council, some times they happen to have just vacated and some times they might not have entered the Council.

Mr. V. K. Bhasksra Menon *(Cranganur)*: How many sitters have been entertained, and how many non-sitters have been entertained?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Why hide?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: There is nothing to hide. There is no attempt on my part to hide. It will not be a success either. I am not trying to hide. I am only to answer the questions as they are put.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: How many sitting members have been recruited to Government service in 1118.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: 3 members, if I remember right—

Mr. Viswambharan, Mr. M. L. Joseph, and Mr. Nambiar. And Mr. M. K. Devassy also.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: May I know how many sitting members have been recruited in 1117. Was not Mr. Krishnankutty taken on?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: I do not remember. I think it was in 1116.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: I ask the Hon'ble Minister whether the M. L. Cs. whose names have been mentioned have been punished by him.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: I have not punished any of them; not by the Government.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Has anybody else fined them?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Am I called upon to answer?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: That is what I ask you.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: In my personal capacity, or as Minister?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: In both or either.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: I think I am not bound to answer this. I want a ruling.

Mr. President: The question is whether the Government had taken action and the reply has already been given. As a member of the Government, the Minister need not answer this question.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know, Sir, whether the Government read the Council Proceedings, of course, the very important speeches of the various Hon'ble Members.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: We are hearing them every day.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Will the Government be pleased to note the difference in the nature of criticism before they had any scent of their being drafted to Government service and subsequently.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: There has been none at all.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: How many Hon'ble members sitting here are receiving honoraria for non-official work?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Four.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know, Sir, if the freedom and fearlessness of the members have not been interfered with, whether they have not been tickled?

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: May I know, Sir, how many sitting members were entertained between the years 1110 and 1116.

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Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I shall find out from the records

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Has Mr. C. K. Nayar resigned his place as Press Organiser or so?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Honestly, the Government have no information.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Are not these honorary workers held on only during the pleasure of the appointer ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The Government have not appointed. The Hon'ble Member must refer to the persons who appointed them.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* From whom are they getting their honorarium ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* From the National War Front.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Who provide the National War Front with funds ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Covernment):* The Government give some funds to the National War Front. Government give funds to private institutions. This is not a Government institution at all.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Never mind, are the Government aware of the National War Front activities ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Yes, to the extent that they report to us.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is not the Leader of the House, the leader of the National War Front also ?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I ask the question as to whether the Government will consider the question of making these appointments permanent or full time. I do not object, in my personal capacity to the valuable services of the Hon'ble Members being utilised, but my point is that they should cease to be members of the Council. May I ask the Government whether the Government will be pleased to appoint them to work full time ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The Government have no hand in this matter. It is the National War Front Organisation that makes these appointments and it is up to them to make them permanent or make them full time.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Is the National War Front represented here by anybody ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* No.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* There is nobody here ?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know, Sir, whether the Hon'ble Members can accept posts in the Labour Units ?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I can answer that question easily. Should not deserving men be given the places they deserve in the Cochin State ? Have you not appointed a planter as the Head of the Assam Labour Force ?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* But he was not a member of the Council. Can a member of the Legislative Council accept the post of a Liaison Officer ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The rules are there and you can very well refer to them.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is not the Minister as such the Leader of the National War Front ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I think it is not.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether Dr. A. R. Menon, when he was Minister, was appointed as the Leader of the National War Front ?

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Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* There was no National War Front then.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Is Mr. M. K. Devassy a Government servant?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I understand he is a servant of the National War Front Organisation.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Then why is it that he has resigned his seat in the Council?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* You must ask him.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is it a case of his resigning his seat or is it because he cannot continue as a member of the Council?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* He has resigned.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I know whether the members of the Legislative Council can send up any helpful suggestions and questions regarding the working of the National War Front.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It is for the President to decide.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: നേഷണൽ വാർ ഫ്രണ്ടിൽ ഓണറേറിയം വാങ്ങി പ്രവൃത്തിയെടുക്കുന്ന അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ആരൊക്കെയാണെന്നു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനറിയാമോ?

രാമവമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ: ഇതിനുള്ള മറുപടി ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞു.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: സിവിൽ ലിസ്റ്റിൽ അവരുടെ പേരുണ്ടോ?

രാമവമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ: സിവിൽ ലിസ്റ്റു് നോക്കണം.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: സിവിൽ ലിസ്റ്റിൽ പേരു ചേർത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നാണു് ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്. ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ പ്രൊവിഷനുണ്ടോ?

രാമവമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ: ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ പ്രൊവിഷനുണ്ടാകും. ഗ്രാൻറ-ഇൻ-എയിഡു് സ്കൂൾ കഠിക്കു് ഗ്രാൻറ കൊടുക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യ, അതുപോലെ കലാമണ്ഡലത്തിലേക്കു് കൊടുക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യ ഇതൊക്കെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ചേർക്കാറുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: നേഷണൽ വാർ ഫ്രണ്ടിലെ ഓർഗനൈസർമാർക്കു് ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ പ്രൊവൈഡു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

രാമവമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ: പക്ഷെ അതു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറല്ലെന്നു മാത്രമേ പറയുന്നുള്ളൂ. അതൊരു നോണഫിഷ്യൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാണു്. അതിനു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു സഹായം ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതിനു സംശയമില്ല.

Mr. Joseph Petta *(Adur):* Sir, do not the Government think that National War Front work and such other work when carried out by the Members of this House will be more effective.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* That is so, nobody raised the question.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: സിവിൽ ലിസ്റ്റിൽ അവരുടെ പേരുകളുണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് സമ്മതിക്കാമോ?

രാമവമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ: ഉണ്ടെന്നുവെച്ചിട്ടു് ഇതിനു ഒരു തെറ്റും വരാനില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ നായർ: ഇന്നയിന്ന ആളുകൾ ഓണറേറിയം വാങ്ങി അതിൽ പ്രവൃത്തിയെടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു് അറിയാമെന്നാണു് അതിൻെറ അർത്ഥം.

രാമവമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ: ഇല്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞില്ലല്ലോ.

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Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : May I ask the question, Sir, as to this specifically to the Government Secretary—whether he is aware that Messrs. C. K. Nayar, K. S. Panicker, K. M Ibrahim and Mrs. Menon were working as Organisers of the National War Front.

Mr. President : The National War Front is and should be a non-official organisation. The national leaders of the people should take part in its activities and such national leaders being Members of the House, they may also take part in its activities. With regard to the appointment of members as Government servants, I may say, it has been difficult to find persons for direct recruitment for the many new posts created as a result of war conditions which have to be made in short time, and we tried to get the most suitable persons to take up posts under the Government, with due consideration to the interests of certain communities and at times, we found, I think quite naturally, that some of the best persons in the State for the posts were Hon'ble Members of this House (*Hear, hear*). That is the reason why they happened to be selected and they have been doing their work satisfactorily and doing well in Government service. In my opinion, both in non-official appointments with honorary work, and in regular appointments also, they will do well. I may also say that even M.Ps. have occasionally, and particularly in these times, accepted Government appointments, for example, a good many of them are now serving in the Army and also I think in other services as well.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : They have even been exempted from the rule of forfeiture of seats.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : So far as I am concerned, I have nothing against it. Nor have I anything against the National War Front. I only say that there is an opinion in the House that those receiving salaries should not sit in the House.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)* : In view of the remarks of the Hon'ble President, may I bring to the notice of the Government that on page 57 of the budget, the details of the expenditure are given and ask the Government Secretary why such details are given if it is a non-official organisation. The details given show the number of organisers, about the lady organiser, clerks, stenographer and a list of officials. If it is a non-official organisation, why such details are given.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : That only shows how we calculated the amount that has to be met by way of expenditure.

Mr. President : It is only explanatory.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)* : Is the State Organiser a Government servant ?

Mr. President : The State Organiser is a Government servant in his capacity of War Publicity Officer.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : May I know, Sir, whether the Government consider membership of the Legislative Council as a pre-eminently good qualification for Government service.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : If other qualifications exist.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : It is not a disqualification in any case.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : Can I have an answer to the question, please. I have tabled a resolution about this which is coming up on Friday. I ask whether the Government consider membership of the Legislative Council is a good qualification for being drafted into Government service.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : In experience it has been found that it helps an officer if he had been a member of the Legislative Council to do his duties, especially in the higher circles. It is really so.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : So, the answer of the Government is in the affirmative.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : It is so.

Mr. A. Eachera Menon *(Chittur-Rural)* : Were there applications from those

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who have been appointed ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : Is there a Press Organiser now ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : It is a matter for the National War Front. Government have nothing to do with it.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : Mr. C. K. Nayar told me that he has resigned. I ask you whether you have any information about it.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : Honestly, I have no information. I have got nothing to do with it, as Government Secretary. Nor do I go out to get that sort of information. Sometimes such matters come to my notice. There is no file about it in the office. Only when the hon'ble members put some questions, I had to make some informal enquiries and find out. To that extent, I have some personal knowledge. This is a purely non-official organisation helped of course by the Government, and in which the Government are interested to the extent that it should succeed. Therefore, it is not the concern of the Government to know what all reasons induced them to take any disciplinary action against their own officers, if at all they took any.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : Shall we know as to whether we can put any questions as regards the working of the National War Front ?

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : We would like to know whether we are entitled to put questions as to how and where this money goes and on such other matters.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : No one said no ; only it has to be admitted.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : Do the Government take the trouble to give all information when they are prepared to answer ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : I have got the information. It is not the duty of the Goverment to criticise or to endorse or to say anything against it.

Mr. President : There is no occasion to find out that information on this question. This question refers to Government servants. These members of the National War Front are not Government servants.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder *(Jews-Nominated)* : In view of the discussion that has taken place and in view of the feelings exhibited by the non-official members, will the Government be pleased to inform the War Publicity Officer not to take in M. L. C.s in future.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : We will convey all that has taken place here to that organisation.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : May I know whether any of the sitting Members of this House have applied for appointment ? Any application pending ?

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : Are there not two applications pending ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : Not that I am aware of.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : I shall make it clear. There is a vacant place of Press Organiser. Two members have applied for it. I shall take the blame for saying that.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : This is the first time that I hear about this.

Mr. President : None pending with me.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : It was stated, Sir, in answer to a supplementary question that as many as five Members of the fifth Legislative Council have been appointed in Government service. May I know whether there had been applications or not from these members ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : Not at all.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : Sir, a helpful question. Will the Government be pleased to consider that the present honoraria given to the present workers are insufficient ?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : Government will not say.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : Will the Government be pleased to convey to the leader of the Organisation, who is sitting here without saying anything, that the honoraria given is insufficient, and whether the Government will be pleased to increase their status and emolument. Rs. 75 is quite insufficient.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : Yes.

Mr. President : We will convey to the proper quarter the fact that one of the Hon'ble Members has stated so.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : Make it permanent if it can be done.

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Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Commissioner of Excise)*: The National War Front?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Not the National War Front; these workers.

CENTRAL JAIL—PARTICULARS OF FRUIT TREES AND TIMBER

88. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) is there any register kept in the Jail that will show the number of timber trees and fruit trees in the Central Jail compound;

(*b*) has any fruit tree been cut from the Central Jail compound since the date of Government order prohibiting such cutting; if so, was the cutting covered by any sanction, and what was done with the tree cut;

(*c*) was not the trunk of a jack tree cut from the Central Jail compound sawn in the Jail compound in Mithunam 1118, if so, what was done with the sawn pieces?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: (*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) A fallen jackwood tree was removed from the Jail compound to the Jail proper and sawn and the timber kept there.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the existence of very many standing trees in the extensive area of 175 acres in the Jail premises.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: There are some trees there.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Has the Government any idea of the number. It is Government property.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: We have not kept any accounts.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: That may be done.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Who eats all these fruits?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: It is all auctioned. Not only here, but in all Government compounds, the practice is and the order is, that they should be auctioned and credited to departmental receipts.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: May I know whether the Government is aware that a number of timber trees fell down during the cyclone of 1116?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: A few trees would naturally have fallen down during the cyclone days. I have no information.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: I do not want you to speculate. I want to know whether the Government is aware. That is the question.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Some trees might have fallen. How many trees, I have no information. In every compound in Trichur, some trees have fallen. Jail compound cannot be an exception to that.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: Sir, this seems to be a supplementary answer. But I am putting a supplementary question. May I know what was done with the trees that might have fallen down?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The timber was cut and sawn and kept for use in executing work orders.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Will the Government be pleased to enquire whether any officer has appropriated any portion of the trees that have fallen?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: We have made enquiries, and nothing has been found so far. We have no objection to pursue the enquiries still further.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Will the Government be pleasad to have a list of the number of trees in all the Government offices and other compounds?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: It is desirable and orders will be issued.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Have they not got such lists in every department now?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Can I have from the Government a rough idea of the numher of trees that this extensive area in the jail contains.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: I have no information.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: The measurement of trees such as jack-fruit and mango trees may also be noted in the register.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: All necessary details will be entered.

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